

A

# TOTALL OVERTHROW Of the Late pretended POPISH PLOT, BY Titus O'tes himself;

In his LETTER Written from St. Omers,  
April 21, 1678. old stile.

With some OBSERVATIONS thereon.

**I**T's very memorable, and ought never to be forgotten, how this Titus Oates at Michalemas, 1678. came with an amazing account to the Right Honourable the then Privy Council, of an horrid Popish Plot then on foot, to destroy the King, alter the Government, and to introduce Popery; laying the Foundation thereof, and of all his Evidence, at the Trials of the persons Executed on that account, that he came from St. Omers with Mr. Hildsley, April 14th. 1678. old stile; and that he was present at a Consult held at the White-Horse-Tavern near St. Clements Church without Temple-bar, of about Forty or Fifty Jesuits, the 24th. of April, 1678. old stile; when, and where they drew up a Writing, wherein they resolv'd, that Grove and Pickering should go on to Assassinate the King, by shooting him; That he was present at the said Consult, and carry'd the said Resolve from Chamber to Chamber, and got it Signed by several Jesuits; and the next day being the 25th. of April, 1678. he shewed the Resolve to Richard Langborne, Esq; at his Chamber in the Temple, who then and there shew'd him several Commissions from Rome. Nor is it ever to be forgotten, with what Impudence this Vilain Oates swore at the Trial of the Five Jesuits; and Mr. Langborne, as to the truth of his being here in England the 24th. of April, 1678. and also produced Witnesses to make out the same, (most whereof have since Recanted:) By which means he baffled the Evidence of diverse Witnesses (then called the St. Omers Boys,) and thereby Convicted the said Five Jesuits, and Mr. Langborne: And it is very memorable, how at his own Tryal for Perjury, the 8th. of May, 1685. wherein the single Question was, Whether he was at St. Omers or in England, the 24th. of April, 1678. he reflects on the Evidence of divers Credible Witnesses, who prov'd him then at St. Omers; and insinuates, that the Papists had a turn to serve, and with more than an ordinary impudence in the presence of the Court, invokes Almighty God, and expects from Him a Vindication of his Integrity and Innocency.

But now pray let us hear Mr. Oates speak himself in this Letter, Dated exactly at the time in question, and which follows in these Words.

A

Flamsted.

Langhorn's  
Tryal, page 29.

Oate's Narr-  
ative, page 18.

paragrap 28.  
Coleman's Try-  
al, page 24.

Ireland's Tryal  
page 19. 26.

Coleman's Try-  
al, page 33.

5 Jesuits Tryal,  
page 11, 12.  
Langborne's  
Tryal, p. 10, 11.

Oate's Tryal,  
page 76.

The Cypher for  
St. Omers.

Flamsted, April 31, 1678.

SIR,

**T**HIS little Clyent appears before you, and though without a Fee, yet I am confident, acceptable, and may in Forma Pauperis procure Judgement and Execution against any impediment whatsoever, that may tend to the hindring its kisſing your worthy hands. I confess I was not as good as my word, in not meeting with my Friends the Sunday night before I left London, yet must tell you, it was rather my misfortune than my fault, my business requiring more time for its finishing, than providence had allotted me; commend me to Captain Aston and Mr. Nevil, and the rest of the merry Gentlemen, meeting in old Southampton Buildings, and tell them that their little Parson is well, and is at leisure to pray for them, and hopes they do the like for him; I thought to have accomplish'd my Affairs so effectually as to have gone you know whither. But I must stay till the end of Rhetorick, and question not, but Then to effect my good Design, the which I am certain you Honour: And for the effecting of which; I am confident of not wanting your good intentions; I pray spur on Mr. Berry in solliciting my business with Mr. Charles Howard; I have told you heretofore the Contents thereof, and if your Memory fail you, Mr. Berry will re-inform you; My Service to your good self, and assure your self of my being your humble Servant,

Little Motet  
was Mr. Lang-  
horne's Nephew,  
and likewise a  
Scholar at St.  
Omers.

Mr. Langhorne's Sons are both  
well, and also little Motet.

Titus O'tes.

From this Letter it must be granted, that Oates ought rather to have appeal'd to his own Conscience, than to Almighty God, which would (without any Invocation) have declar'd the Truth of what this his own Letter attests, viz. That he was at St. Omers, (and so impossible that he should be at any Consult at the White-Horse-Tavern in the Strand,) the 24th. of April, 1678.

To Answer the Capricious Questions, of such as have been, or still are industrious, to nurse up and improve the impious improbable (or rather impossible) stories of Oates and his Accomplices; to wit, where hath this Letter remain'd all this time? why not sooner produc'd? to whom was it directed; or to give any reason why the ignorant Coxcomb Dated it the 31st. of April, 1678. [there being no such day either here or beyond-sea,] (April having but 30 days in it;) is not my Province.

Yet thus much I think fit to observe, that this Letter was Directed to a Gentleman of the long Robe, of the Roman Catholock Religion, as is apparent

apparent from the Letter it self; and particularly in the Preamble of it, the *Mimick Apes* the stile of that profession, and that this Gentleman was his intimate acquaintance, and one of the Club which *Oates* frequented in old Southampton Buildings; and it is easily to be made out, that *Oates* knew him several years before; For particularly in the year 1677. when *Oates* was at *Valladolyd* in *Spain*, *Oates* Wrote several Letters from thence to him.

The import of this Letter is very material to be observ'd, for *Oates* was then aiming to be a Novice at *Watton*, and he wanting Learning for that purpose, was first sent on Charity to *St. Omers*, and there he must stay till the end of *Rethorick*, before he could accomplish his good design; and this part of the Letter fully confirms the Evidence of the Witnesses that came from *St. Omers*, who swore he was in his *Rethorick*.

*Oates's Tryal,*  
page 18, 20.

Next I observe that Mr. *Berry* nam'd in this Letter, was *Oates's* intimate acquaintance, as appear'd by *Oate's* Narrative, and his Evidence given at the Trial of the Lord *Castlemain* in the Kings-bench 23d. of June, 1680. And it is very observable, that *Oates* there charges this Mr. *Berry* by the Name of *Hutchinson*, of High Treason, for seducing him from his Religion, and turning him to the Church of *Rome*; and desires it may be Recorded. And yet in five Months after at the Tryal of *William Lord Viscount Stafford*, before his Peers in Parliament, and in presence of the House of Commons, he impudently declares upon his Oath, that he only pretended, but was never really a Papist, *Monstrum Horrendum!*

*Lord Stafford's Tryal*, page 123.

It's notorious that *Flamsted* is the Cant for *St. Omers*, and that persons when there, Date their Letters under that Cypher. In regard of the Penalty of the Laws prohibiting any Education in *Popish Seminaries* beyond the Seas.

If any be still so tenacious of this impostors Evidence as to question, whether this Letter be *Titus Oate's* own Writings or not, he may as well doubt whether there be such a City as *Tork*, or such a Kingdom as *Ireland*, because he was never there. But to convince all mankind as to this point, it's affirm'd that this Letter is all of *Oates's* hand Writing, and is to be produc'd, when requir'd: And that *Oates* himself (notwithstanding his *Brazen Front*, and unparaleld impudence) cannot deny it; Nor can He with all his Accomplices be able to Evade it: And if He, or Ten Thousand on his behalf, should affirm that *Oates* was not at *St. Omers*, but at the Consult at the *White-Horse-Tavern* in the *Strand*, the 24th of April, 1678. it is impossible to be believ'd, this Letter being more then *mille Testes* to the contrary, and a *Testimonium rei* thereof.

When (with horror and amazement) I consider that this *Impostor Oates*, and his most notorious falcities, contradictions, and absurdities were improv'd, to the destruction of several Mens Lives, Honours and Fortunes, and to the detriment of divers (yet living) in their Persons, Estates and Reputations. I could imagine of no better or safer recourse, than to that of *St. Paul* in his 2d. Epistle to the *Thessalonians*, Chap. 2. ver. 11. *And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.*

How far the Church of *England* in general, or diverse of her eminent dignifyed Clergy in particular, may be said to be under this delusion, and gave their helping hands to the promoting and improving the Reputation of this vile Impostor (being too Copious for this) must be the subject matter of another Paper.

And

And now I could heartily wish, that all the Gentlemen of the long Robe in *Westminster-Hall*, might be said to be free from this Delusion, and that they had not in any measure contributed to the support of the devilish Machinations of this *Oates*, and other of the Sons of *Belial* his Brethren, and to crush those *Advocates* for Truth, that appear'd innocently, and without any fraud to detect their Villany. I shall only at present observe this of Mr. Serjeant *Pemberton*, who when Lord Chief Justice of *England*, at the Tryal of *Nathaniel Thompson*, *William Payne*, and *John Farewell*, the 20th. of June, 1682. at the *Guild-Hall*, *London*, for Printing Letters to *Miles Prance*, relating to the Murther of Sir *Edmund Bury Godfrey*, in his summing up the Evidence to the Jury, he expresseth himself thus, *viz.* That it was a Combination of them to affront the Justice of the Nation, and to make people believe there was no Popish Plot, but it's plain he was kill'd by the Popish Party, as *Prance* attested; And if they could have made it out he kill'd himself, they would have cry'd out, the Popish Plot was nothing but a Sham, a thing rais'd by the Protestants against the Papists, and the Plot, must have gone for nothing. By what Rule or Construction of Law these three Persons endeavouring without any Subornation, or other fraud, to detect *Prance* for his Villanous accusing of innocent people was made an Arraigning the Justice of the Nation I am yet to seek; Nor can give any account why in that Tryal Printed by Allowance of Mr. Serjeant *Pemberton*, there was left out that material part of Mrs. *Rawson's* Evidence, as to the Blood and Water which came from Sir *Edmund Bury Godfrey's* Body, after he was remov'd from the Ditch to the *White House* where she and her Husband then dwelt, whilst he lay upon the Table there, and run upon the floor, and so into the Sellar, and wetted the Bottles with Blood: But this is very memorable and necessary to be observ'd, that notwithstanding the most Barbarous and Inhumane usage that these three persons met with in that affair, God Almighty (who is Truth it self) in his own due time was pleas'd to give a blessing to their honest endeavours, and eminently to make them (especially Mr. *Farewell*) instrumental, by just and Legal means, to bring *Prance* to an acknowledgement, detestation, and abhorrence of his manifold complicated Perjuries, which these Men by their Letters to him only, endeavour'd fairly to have convinced the whole Nation off, by laying before them the true (and only true) matter of Fact, as to Sir *Edmund Bury Godfrey's* Death. And that God might be glorified in the discovery of that truth, was the chief end they concern'd themselves therein.

*But now Oates himself by this Letter having demonstrated the Popish Plot, to be a meer Sham, and a most villanous and bloody contrivance of his own, I hope neither the Justice of the Nation, nor the Church of England, or any Member thereof, or any other person of what perswasion soever will be concerned at my affirming the same so to be.*

That God may be Glorifyed in and for his Providential Discovery of this Letter, and thereby bring to light the hidden works of darkness, and that every one may be thereby delivered from the *Delusion* before-mention'd, is the principal design of this Publication.

1881  
1882  
1883

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**I** Do appoint *Benjamin Tooke* to  
Print these Proceedings, and  
Order that no other Person pre-  
sume to Print the same.

*Geo. Jefferys.*

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